



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
INSTALLATIONS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
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WASHINGTON DC 20310-0110

SAIE

JUN 19 2018

MEMORANDUM THRU SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Army Support to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Migrant Operations

1. Purpose. Provide additional detail on suggested use of Army resources available to support emergent DHS migrant operations requirement along the U.S. southern border with Mexico.

2. Discussion. On 7 June 2018, Army staffed and submitted a recommended package for DHS adult migrant support identifying land parcels at Fort Bliss, TX available for use with minimal or no impact to priority Department of Defense missions. The analysis leading to that recommendation included the following:

a. The Army evaluated existing detention/confinement facilities and determined no vacant or underutilized detention/confinement space is available to support the detention of adult migrants without causing major impacts to military operations or readiness. Army would consider taking on additional military prisoners, from other military confinement facilities, but it would have an impact on Army operations and require additional support to manage the increased population.

b. The Army reassessed our large vacant facilities on installations within 250 miles of the border and determined that no facilities can be made available without causing major impacts to military operations from a training, readiness, or security standpoint.

3. Recommendation. The Army fully understands and supports the importance of this mission to the President and the Nation. The Army believes that the most efficient and effective way to contribute to the DHS mission is by making land parcels available at installations close to the border. Additionally, we believe that the most expeditious and cost-effective way to execute this work is for DHS to contract directly with a third party for the required services.

a. The Army believes that the Fort Bliss parcels nominated are suited to host soft-sided temporary structures of the type used to house Army personnel in transient training and contingency operating environments. Additionally, one parcel can be directly accessed from the road network outside the installation and is adjacent to a parcel that the Army had previously approved for permit to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

b. If this course of action is selected, Army is prepared to immediately begin coordination to establish a Memorandum of Agreement containing detailed DHS requirements, Army site security and access requirements and to ensure proper compliance with the Economy Act and other applicable laws.

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c. Army Installation Management Command and the Fort Bliss garrison will then be prepared to work with DHS personnel to coordinate use of the parcel, which will include the following in order to operate a temporary field detention facility:

(1) Site survey work including identification of engineering and environmental considerations

(2) Basic site preparations including clearing, grading, and fencing

(3) Installation and furnishing of soft-sided temporary facilities

(4) Provisions for hygiene and latrine facilities

(5) Facilities and arrangements for feeding

d. For preliminary planning purposes, we believe approximately 30 days are needed from the initial contracting action to the first available occupancy of 250 beds. Assuming availability of adequate tentage and support services, 250 additional beds could be added approximately every 5-7 days. These factors are highly sensitive to decisions related to power, water, and other infrastructure (e.g., use of generators or extension of municipal electricity, etc.).

e. If provided additional detailed requirements from DHS related to the desired endstate, Army would seek to provide DHS with additional insights into the conduct of the mission given our experience providing temporary facilities for a similar mission for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for unaccompanied children at Fort Sill, OK in 2014 (Army contracted/HHS reimbursed) and Dona Ana Range, TX in 2017 (HHS contracted) in addition to temporary facilities used by our expeditionary forces engaged in contingency operations.

4. The POC for this memorandum is the undersigned at 703-692-9802.



JORDAN GILLIS
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Installations, Energy and Environment)